

Mont. 16-12-20  
Warren M.E. Church Cemetery  
Martinsburg  
Private

1870's, poss.  
earlier

This small cemetery may well have been begun in the years soon after emancipation when the Warren M.E. Church was founded near this site. Though most of the older grave stones are unmarked, those that are marked constitute a valuable resource for the history of Black families in upper western Montgomery County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Mont. 16-12-87  
Magi # 20

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Warren M.E. Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Martinsburg-Dickerson Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Martinsburg

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

—BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

No

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES, RESTRICTED

—YES, UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Cemetery

NAME

M. L. STONE

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: 1008

Folio #: 262

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:16-12-20

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This cemetery is located on the summit of a hill overlooking the Martinsburg community. Most of the cemetery has grown up now in woods, and the vast majority of the grave stones are no longer visible. According to Lemuel Graham and John Thompson from Martinsburg, this was the burying ground for the older residents of Martinsburg. No one definitely knows when this site was first used as a cemetery, perhaps it was began as a slave and/or free Black cemetery during the antebellum era. The cemetery continues to be used, and some of the descendants have kept up their family plots. Examples were photographed as part of this survey.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:16-12-20

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Black history
				Local history
SPECIFIC DATES 1870s, possibly earlier		BUILDER/ARCHITECT		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE				

It is not known when this cemetery was first used for burial purposes. Further research of the land records might shed light on its history, such as the date of purchase by the Warren M.E. Church. According to Lemuel Graham, a M.E. church once stood near this cemetery and was moved to the property in Martinsburg where the present church stands. It was moved "before my time" he said, and it was torn down when he was about six or seven, and the present structure built. Thus this cemetery at one time was not alone, but was associated with a church. Since this was the only cemetery in the Martinsburg community used in the "old times", according to Graham, it is possible that this site has a long history as a burial grounds for Blacks, stretching back into the antebellum era, and that the church on this specific site was built after freedom because the site had already been established as a sacred place. This was a pattern that I found as a result of research in rural North Carolina.

When Graham was about eight or ten years old (c. 1902-1904), he said the church purchased additional acreage for the cemetery from Tom Naylor. In recent years, about four or five years ago, more land was acquired for the cemetery from a man named Grant, Graham said. For further information, other older members of the community should be consulted.

The gravestones give important information as to the full names, ages, relationships, and dates of birth and death of family members. This is vital evidence for genealogies. The earliest date of birth on the grave stones examined was that of Tilghman Dorsey, Mary 15, 1845 - November, 1926. Community and research students should be encouraged to record more of these important, vital statistics for family histories.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.  
Deed: 1004/262.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

6/78

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~  
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~  
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~  
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510

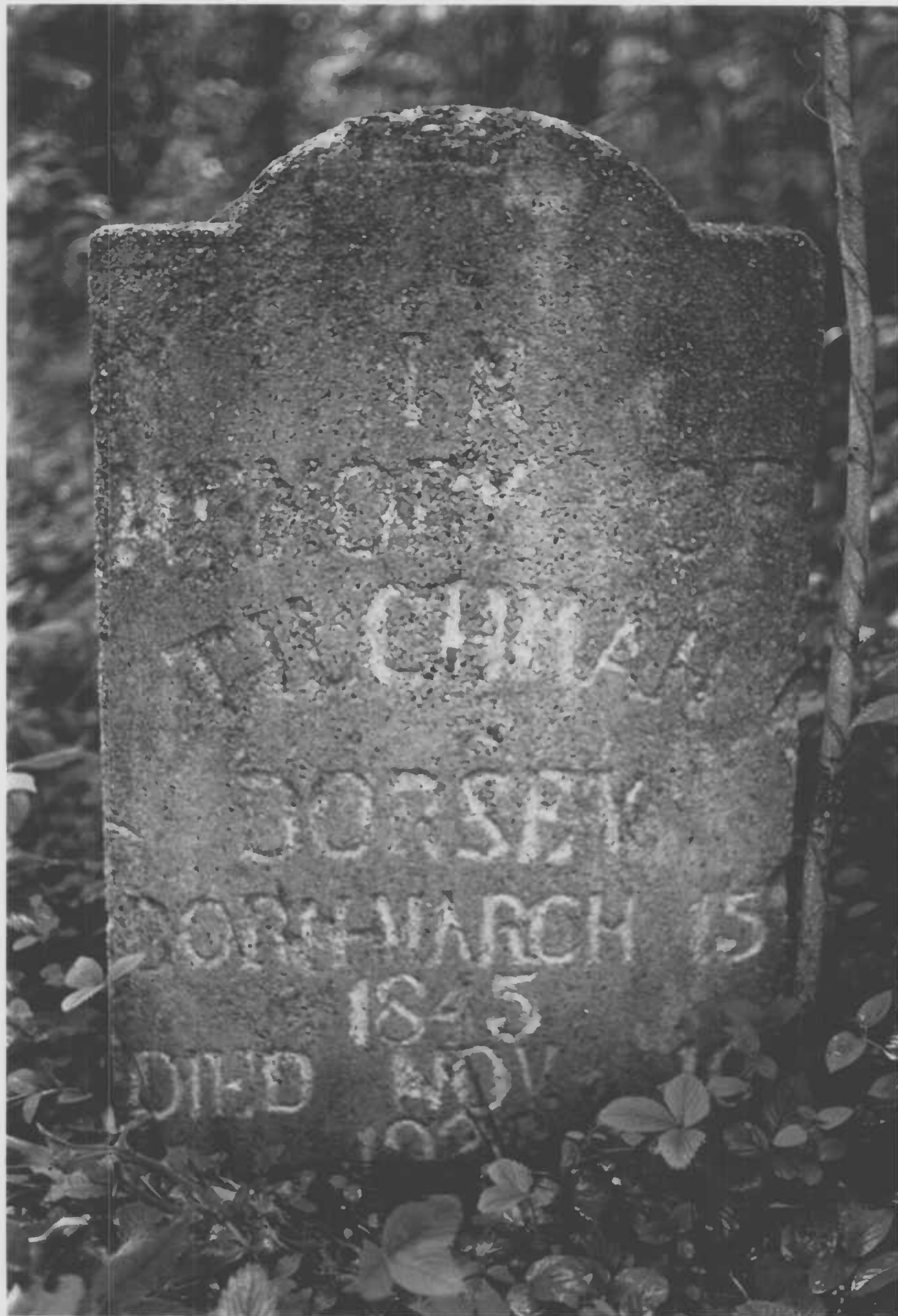


Warrens M.E. Cemetery

M-16-12-1920

Martinsburg Md.

6/78 gum





In memory of  
Tilghman Dorsey  
Born March 15  
1845

Died Nov. 18  
1920

M- 16-12-20

Warren M.E church cemetery  
Martinsburg, Md.

6/78

Gunn



Grave in Warren M.E. <sup>church</sup> Cemetery

M-16-12-20

Marlborough, Md.

Sum 6/78